

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 H-03 INR-11 IO-14 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 SP-03 OC-06 M-02 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-20

USSS-00 SY-04 FAA-00 WRD-03 SCCT-02 PM-07 PA-04 OMB-01

CIEP-02 NIC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-02 DRC-01 /128 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3354

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN

HQ FIFTH AIR FORCE FUCHU JAPAN

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS JA

SUBJ: HIJACK OF JAL-OSAKA FLIGHT

REF: TOKYO 9333

1. HIJACK INCIDENT ENDED 0458 JULY 16 WHEN NAGOYA POLICE STORMED INTO COCKPIT OF AIRCRAFT WHICH HAD ARRIVED FROM TOKYO THREE HOURS EARLIER AND ARRESTED LONE HIJACKER. IN SCUFFLE MAN LATER IDENTIFIED BY POLICE AS AKIRA IWAKOSHI (26) ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY CUTTING HIS THROAT WITH KNIFE. WOUND WAS NOT SERIOUS, HOWEVER, AND HE IS NOW BEING QUESTIONED BY POLICE IN NAGOYA HOSPITAL. KYOTO RESIDENT FROM OKINAWA, IWAKOSHI HAS POLICE RECORD (THEFT). PASSENGERS AND CREW, WITH EXCEPTION OF FEMALE PURSER WHO RECEIVED MINOR KNIFE WOUND, WERE ALL UNINJURED. ROBERT ALLEN AND MILTON RICHMOND, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IDENTIFIED BY PRESS AS AMERICANS, WERE AMONG PASSENGERS WHO DE-

PLANED.

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, HIJACKED AIRCRAFT HAD ARRIVED TOKYO SHORTLY AFTER 2100 JULY 15. WHILE ON GROUND AT HANEDA HIJACKER DEMANDED RELEASE OF JAILED SEKIGUN LEADER TAKAYA SHIOMI AND ONWARD FLIGHT TO NORTH KOREA. WHILE HE NEGOTIATED WITH JAL OFFICIALS, POLICE CLOSED AIRPORT TO AIRCRAFT AND LOCAL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. IN EXCITED STATE, HIJACKER REPORTEDLY THREATENED TO KILL PASSENGERS IF AUTHORITIES FAILED TO MEET HIS DEMANDS. WHILE OFFICIALS WERE ENGAGED IN STALLING TACTICS DESIGNED TO TIRE HIM, IWAKOSHI SUDDENLY ORDERED PILOT TO FLY TO OSAKA. HOWEVER, SHORT FUEL SUPPLY NECESSITATED LANDING AT NAGOYA.

3. WHILE AIRCRAFT WAS BEING REFUELED ON HIJACKER'S DEMAND, OFF-DUTY JAL PERSONNEL ON PLANE AIDED MALE PASSENGER TO EXIT FROM REAR DOOR. WITH HIS ASSISTANCE, EMERGENCY CHUTE WAS LOWERED TO GROUND AND PASSENGERS ESCAPED UNDETECTED BY IWAKOSHI WHO WAS IN COCKPIT. THEN, WHEN STEWARDESS ALSO HELD IN COCKPIT OPENED DOOR ON PRETEXT OF GOING TO TOILET, POLICE WHO HAD ENTERED PLANE, RUSHED IN AND SEIZED HIJACKER.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION SO FAR THAT IWAKOSHI WAS MEMBER OF OR HAD ANY DIRECT TIES TO SEKIGUN. INITIAL IMPRESSION ALSO IS THAT HE WAS ACTING ALONE.

5. JAPANESE SECURITY MEASURES ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ARE STRICT. HOWEVER, FACT IWAKOSHI WAS ABLE TO GET KNIFE ON BOARD PLANE WILL PROBABLY STIMULATE ROUND OF CRITICISM OF PROCEDURES AND MAY LEAD TO EVEN MORE STRINGENT CHECKS.

6. COOPERATION OF USFJ IN REPORTING ON INCIDENT AND IN FACILITATING STANDBY ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE FLIGHT TO NORTH KOREA WAS EXCELLENT THROUGHOUT. MOFA EXPRESSED SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR ASSISTANCE.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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